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| <b>IN THE<br/>UNITED STATES<br/>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>   | <i>Application Number</i>     | 09/986,381               |
|   | <i>Filing Date</i>            | November 8, 2001         |
|   | <i>First Named Inventor</i>   | Steven S. Sommer, et al. |
|   | <i>Group Art Unit</i>         | 1637                     |
|   | <i>Examiner Name</i>          | Shar S. Hashemi          |
|   | <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 1954-360                 |
| <i>Title of the Invention:</i> <i>Measurement of Mutation Load Using the p53 Gene in Human Cells From Paraffin Embedded Tissues</i> |                               |                          |

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**AMENDMENT**

FEB 20 2003

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated September 20, 2002, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the indicated paragraphs of the specification with the following clean copy of the amended paragraphs:

A1

[0008]     To identify individuals who are predisposed to elevated spontaneous mutations or who have had previous carcinogen exposure, it is advantageous to use the smallest amount of PCR template that could result in an accurate picture of mutation load. HotStart™ (HOTSTART) PCR, which helps to prevent the formation of primer dimer, permits amplification of more dilute template. Using this technique, a 140 bp PCR segment was amplified from an extracted single DNA template using 60 cycles. Vogelstein, B., Kinzler,